



Paul J. Diodati
Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Marine Fisheries
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 626.1520
Fax (617) 626.1509



MarineFisheries Advisory
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ASMFC SEEKS COMMENT ON WINTER FLOUNDER AMENDMENT
Massachusetts to hold Public Comment Period through January 3rd

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Winter Flounder Management Board is seeking comments on preferred management measures for recreational and commercial winter flounder fisheries to be included in Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP). To assist in the collection of public input in Massachusetts, *MarineFisheries* will be conducting a public comment period through January 3rd.

The current draft of the Amendment includes several options for management of commercial and recreational fisheries for both stocks, with preferred options identified by the Winter Flounder Management Board. Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input **ONLY** on the recreational and commercial management measures (Sections 4.1 and 4.2) contained in the Draft Amendment available for download at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries. Other sections of the plan including the goals and objectives of the Amendment received extensive public comment throughout July and August of 2004. The Winter Flounder Management Board reviewed the earlier comments and finalized these sections at its meeting in August 2004. A full copy of Amendment 1 can be downloaded from the ASMFC website at <http://www.asmfc.org/speciesDocuments/winterFlounder/fmps/nov15Am1PublicHearingDraft.pdf> or you can call ASMFC's Lydia Munger (202.289.6400) to request a copy.

Written comments may be received by e-mail, (marine.fish@state.ma.us), fax (617.626.1509), or mail (DMF; 251 Causeway St., Suite 400; Boston, MA 02114) and will be accepted until 5PM on Monday, January 3, 2005. Following approval of final measures by the ASMFC Winter Flounder Management Board, *MarineFisheries* and the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission will schedule public hearings.

For further information please visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.